tries/Departments, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India, Small Industries Development Bank of India and other concerned agencies.

[*Translation*]

Abolition of Licensing System

*195. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small and big industries are likely to be affected as a result of abolition of licensing system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The abolition of industrial licensing system is not expected to affect adversely either small or big industries. On the contrary, the exemption from licensing will be particularly helpful to many dynamic small and medium entrepreneurs who have been unnecessarily hampered by the licensing system.

Consumer Price Index

*196. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the base year for the current series of Consumer Price Indices;

(b) since when this base year was adopted;

(c) whether the Government propose to have a new base year and also to revise the existing methodology adopted to arrive at the Consumer Price Index; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 1982.

(b) The base year was introduced from October, 1988.

(c) There is no such proposal for the present.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Investment by NRIs

*197. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the NRIs to invest in heavy industries in India;

(b) if so, the number of Non-Resident Indians so far permitted to start such industries; and

(c) the details of the scheme drawn up in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN):(a) to (c). Government of India in Ministry of Finance have decided to permit Non-resident Indians and Overseas Corporate Bodies Predominantly owned by them to invest upto 100% of the equity in high priority industries and other industries, subject to the conditions laid down vide Press Note dated 28th October, 1991.